



CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Convenes Asian & Pacific Islander Policy Summit

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, along with its community partners, including the Asian American Education Institute, Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander American Affairs, and Asian & Pacific Islanders California Action Network convened a successful Asian & Pacific Islander (API) Policy Summit at the Sacramento Convention Center on May 2 – 3, 2011.

Bringing together hundreds of Asian & Pacific Islander American (APIA) community leaders at the Sacramento Convention Center, the summit featured plenary sessions and workshops on a variety of issues such as green jobs and healthcare reform implementation. In addition, the summit featured many leadership and skills building workshops increasing the capacity of community based organizations and non-profits in their advocacy efforts. With the theme "Fighting the Good Fight: Impacting Local, State, and Federal Public Policy," the summit aimed to bring advocates together to develop more sophisticated strategies to advance the APIA agenda at every level of government.

“With over five million residents in California and making up seven percent of the California electorate, the APIA community is an emerging voice.” stated Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani (D – South LA County) in his speech opening the API Policy Summit, “Our voice represents an assortment of communities such as the Native Hawaiians & Pacific Islanders, APIA’s with disabilities, and college students. Today, we unify that voice to ensure that the APIA movement addresses the needs of all of these communities on the local, state, and federal levels.”

The API Legislative Caucus honored Southern California Edison, Chief Justice Tani Santil-Sakauye, and Governor Jerry Brown for their positive impact on the APIA community at the API Summit Gala Banquet which closed the night for the May 2nd activities. On May 3rd, participants of the summit engaged in legislative visits to meet with legislative offices regarding policy important to the APIA community.

The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities throughout California. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government. Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani and Assemblymember Mary Hayashi serve as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the caucus.

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